



The Proclaimer

VOLUME 27, NO.1

WINTER 2007



The Music Man

By Jane Butkowsky

On November 10th and 11th, a cast of 35 4th through 8th grade students from St. Pius X School presented a junior version of *The Music Man* on stage at Notre Dame Academy. Many other school-mates were involved backstage with painting scenery under the direction of **Mr. Jim Lohman** or assisting our technical director, **Mr. Paul Molnar** with curtains and changes of scenery. Two others helped with spotlights under the direction of very capable Notre Dame students who were in charge of microphones and sound.

As usual, our St. Pius parents were involved in many areas: driving, costumes, make-up, back stage supervision, and publicity. **Mr. Dan Desmond** and **Mrs. O'Shea** were in charge of music, and **Mrs. Jen Kwiatkowski** was the choreographer. The children had been rehearsing four days a week since Aug. 23, and were gratified by the applause and favorable comments of all who attended the show. Next year, the students will be involved in the school Talent Show; then it's back to Broadway for the school year 2008-09!

ST. PIUS X PARISH



THE PROCLAIMER
Volume 27 No.1 Winter 2007

EDITOR

Jane Butkowsky

DESIGN and LAYOUT

Diane Saccone

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Deb O'Shea
Fr. James Sanford
Mary Ann Niedzielski
Anne Etue
Vicki Jagielski
Dave Wolfe

THE PROCLAIMER is published quarterly: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed and encouraged.

St. Pius X Church
3011 Carskaddon Ave.
Toledo, Ohio 43606

Pastor

Fr. James Sanford, OSFS

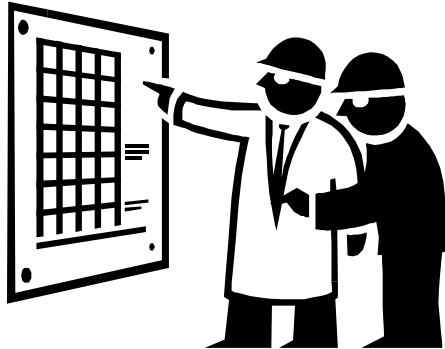
PARISH CENTER OFFICE

Monday – Friday 8 – 4

Phone: 419-535-7672
Fax: 419-535-7810
Email: stpius@buckeye-express.com
Website: www.saint-pius.org

Buildings and Grounds
Committee Update

By Dave Wolfe



This is a report on the past year's activities of the committee and our plans for 2007. Our group consists of dedicated parishioners who not only like to plan and discuss what needs to happen to our physical plant, but also like to dig in and help get the job done. This past summer, we supervised the completion of painting, installing carpet tiles, and improving the lighting in three additional classrooms. In addition we did projects in the rectory and two sacristies, organized the garage, and selectively replaced damaged wall panels in the Family Life Center. The FLC north storage room will receive improvements this year.

The rectory project consisted of a new furnace/air conditioning unit, kitchen upgrade, and separation of the living unit from the lower level. The former lower level laundry was moved to an enlarged

closet upstairs so all living functions could be accommodated on the first floor. The church sacristy project consists of a remodeled vesting space located off the rear of the church with the vessel storage and cleaning area being relocated to the room behind the altar. Many of the items stored there went to the garage where they were reorganized. Cages and shelving were erected thanks to the hard work of the committee. Parishioner Ralph Shawaker lent his expertise to both the metal cages and shelves. Not in any particular order is our committee: **Jim Dandar, Len Pudlicki, John Ziegehofer, John McAuliffe, Denny McPartland, Ted Hamilton, Duane Hoschak, and Dave Wolfe (Chairman)**. Our personal coach for ideas and spiritual adviser is Fr. Jim. We welcome anyone with the interest and desire to maintain our physical plant to join us.

2007 will bring much needed roofing replacement over the school corridor spines, repair of the parish center and rectory roofs, and completion of the painting, carpeting, and lighting projects for the remaining two classrooms. The main emphasis, however, will be the total replacement of the two original 1953 school/church restrooms making them handicap accessible and up to date. We have a busy year ahead!

Pain Essay

By Fr. Jim Sanford



God, grant me the grace
to perform this action
with you and through
love for you.

*In advance I offer you all the
good that I may do and accept
all the **pain** and trouble that I
meet with therein.*

“The Direction of Intention”
by St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

Pain! I never thought that I’d be one of those people who experienced much of it at all. In fact, I’ve spent my entire life trying to avoid it as much as possible. I only played sports in fourth grade and then usually quit or got cut. I didn’t enjoy being cleated, stomped on and berated by middle-aged, want-to-be unprofessional coach-dads. Then I tried boy scouts. It hurt too. I was a “Tenderfoot” for two years until I was drummed out of the corps. I did play peewee baseball for my dad for three years. It was life enriching and lots of fun and didn’t involve much pain, but I’ll save that story for another time! Today I’m writing about my modern nemesis: Pain!

I am slightly over fifty years old and have been in constant nerve pain for almost two years. Allow me to catalogue my afflictions and then I’ll tell you how they came to be a part of my normally mundane life. My right hand is usually clenched like Bob Dole’s. I have to work to stretch it out several times each day. My right leg has forgotten how to walk. I must concentrate on lifting it when I walk. I feel at times that perhaps I should either enter politics or find a friend named “Marshal Dillon.” My right hand feels like it is on fire. My upper right leg tells me that needles are sticking in and out of my thigh!

I have issues with sensitivity too. Well, of course emotional, and I’m currently getting help for that, but I’m talking about physical sensitivity here. I can’t tell the difference between hot/cold, wet/dry from my left chest down to the tip of my left toe. I found this out in a hot tub! I itch a lot too. It’s a deep itch far below my skin. I try to ignore it or I honestly believe that I could scratch my epidermis right off!

My left leg is also well acquainted with unnerving pain. From my shin down through my toes this leg feels like it is burning. It’s as if I left the bottom half of my left leg out in the summer sun for too many hours.

The left side of the trunk of my body feels like my internal organs are continually boiling. My prostate doesn’t seem to

work right anymore, but it isn’t enlarged.

When I walk my toes curl up. Some one informed me that it’s called “hammer toe.” I sometimes trip and fall over the slightest of earthly ridges like a fallen leaf or a crack in some concrete. Last Labor Day I was walking with a friend to a Mud Hens game. I tripped. He tried to save me. We both went down hard outside the stadium. We looked like a couple of drunken Irishmen enjoying our day-off a bit too much! (By the way, I can say “Irishmen” because I am one!)

How did this quiet, slightly overweight, 4th generation Irish-American end up this way? Well I’ve forgotten to mention that I am your pastor, and proud of it too! So here’s how it happened: one day almost eight years ago I agreed to accompany a group of wrestlers from our high school to work for a week in Appalachia. I’d been on a few mission trips to Mexico and survived them fairly well. I figured that Appalachia would be a piece of cake. The people there in West Virginia were wonderful, so were the boys from our school. Let’s just say that these grapplers I traveled with were lovable but full of life. They rolled around a lot with each other during their free time, but I kept my distance. I didn’t want any of them having any “recovered memories” of my trying to relate to them by wrestling too! One night one of the boys wanted to wrestle me. And thus my new life began.

I didn't want to be unkind, but I firmly said no and reminded him of the current reputation of Roman Catholic priests. Everyone howled with laughter, but the dear angel grabbed me anyway and rolled me into some bone-crushing position. I heard my neck crack three times and my body goes numb. I screamed. He let go. The numbness went away. He apologized. The coaches and kids affectionately called me a wimp. It was all forgotten.

Within a few months of the above experience I started experiencing tingling in my right leg. My doctor sent me to a neurologist who tested me and concluded that I was neurologically fine. After a couple more years of tingling a new doctor sent me to another neurologist. He found bone spurs growing out of a hairline fracture in three vertebrae of my neck. The spurs were pressing on my spine and so he forwarded me on to a neurosurgeon. The surgeon operated on my neck and removed the spurs; the pain/numbness continued so he operated again six months later. I won't bore you with all of the technical details. Let's just say that the second surgery didn't go too well and I woke up paralyzed and in pain. I don't blame the doctor and would never sue him. He did what I asked!

Many of you ask me how I'm feeling when you greet me. I usually respond with "fine." That is true in many respects, but physically I'm still

experiencing all of the physical symptoms along with fatigue.

Many of you also know nerve pain as intimately and as extensively as me. I am not writing this to gain your sympathy, but a little bit can't help! Honestly, I want to witness to the healing power of Christ's love. Since that day I woke up in the hospital in January of 2005 I have fallen down into the depths of despair and self-loathing. It wasn't until this past Lenten season that I asked God for help. Not until then. I don't think my ego would allow it. During that blessed season of healing I simply prayed for a healing of Spirit, and woke up Easter morning refreshed.

Don't get me wrong. I still hurt and have bad days, but I believe that my pain does not have the power over me that it once did. I'm listening better to my doctors and counselors. One of my best friends, who hears me gripe about my hurts a lot of the time, has constantly urged me to pray for physical healing. One kind soul noticed my pain and gave me a bottle of the "Blessed Mother's tears" and urged me to wash with it. Well, I didn't. I'm a bit of a skeptic about that kind of stuff. Besides, shouldn't we accept some physical tribulation as we experienced life? I don't believe that God causes pain, but I do believe that perhaps He allows it for reasons we'll only understand in eternal life.

Well-intentioned people have often told me that by writing about my pain I could pass hope

on to those who read this reflection. I'm not too sure how this may happen, but all is possible with God. In his writings St. Francis de Sales refers a lot to "God's Good Pleasure." As I understand St. Francis, these are the incidents in life, large and small, beyond our influence that we simply have to accept. For example, say someone cuts you off in traffic, annoys you at work, or even has the gall to not invite you to their sister's son's second wedding. There's not much to do except accept. This acceptance of "God's Good Pleasure" will set you free. It has for me.

Since Easter of '06 I believe that I've been more patient driving, working and dealing with the annoyances of everyday life. People around me may disagree. I know that I still hold a few grudges and grumble at bad drivers, but with God's help I'm coping better with my pain.

Pain is never easy. Even Our Lord struggled with it. Remember? Jesus cried out in a loud voice from His cross: "My God my God why have you forsaken me?" He also prayed: "Father, forgive them."

The next time you want to cry out in pain and anger feel free to do so, but don't forget to ask God for help. The physical pain may not go away, but He may still grant you the grace you need to help you to cope and still be able to love. Give prayer for pain a try. It only took me 16 months!

An Experience of a Parish

By Mary Ann Niedzielski



Parishes have been prominent in the news in the past couple of years. Throughout the U.S., and most immediately in our own diocese, parish closings have prompted much controversy and distress. Parishioners love their parish and grieve when they are told that their unique Eucharistic community is no longer viable.

The grief is real because the bond between parish and parishioner is strong and lasting. To illustrate this, several St. Pius X parishioners were asked to share their experience of parish, why being part of a parish is important and meaningful to them.

Henk Albregt sees personal involvement as the key to his experience of parish. "When I became a member of St. Pius X, I realized for the first time in my life what it means to belong to a parish. In brief, a parish provides recognition, the fact that the clergy and staff actually know me. Secondly, a parish means involvement, to be a lector and choir member, etc. And, thirdly, a parish is about dedication, to be able to attend church regularly, taking part in the Liturgy and

special functions. In general, the intimacy of a small church and the contact with my fellow parishioners make me feel proud to belong to this parish."

Interpersonal relationships define a parish. For **Judi Wordelman**, "Parish to me is belonging to another family. So many dear people at St. Pius X, giving their most valuable asset, their time."

"The parish is part of my life," says **Pat Cryan**. "Working on Parish Council and being part of the CCD program for many years introduced me to the workings of a parish. And I enjoyed it very much. But as I become older, I see more and experience more the inner life of the parish. Faith filled people coming to the Liturgy with their own highs and lows - leaving a smile, laughter with others, or a kind word to someone in need. Realizing it or not, they have just brought Christ to another. To me, this is the inner life of a parish."

Ed and Gwen Raupfer see a parish as "the heart beat of Christ among us. It is the people we pray, play, and are present to in good times and in bad. Parish is the people who become brothers and sisters by their sharing of life and the values they hold dear."

For **Ginny Knapp**, the unifying element of a parish is shared faith. "A parish is like family; it is a special community where we gather to praise God and hear His word. Like family, belonging to a parish requires commitment, hard work, and love. The basis for our fellowship is our relationship to God, and it takes God's help and our effort to have a loving community. Genuine fellowship

is found at St. Pius X, and it has been my loving family for over 40 years."

As you can readily see by these comments, a parish is more than "a portion of a diocese under the authority of a priest," as defined in the dictionary. A parish is a living, growing, ever changing community of the baptized, who are joined by bonds of faith, friendship, and commitment to each other.

It is our hope and prayer that the Catholic Church, the shepherd of all the faithful, will do all in its power to support, strengthen, and preserve that very special Christ-centered community we call parish.

Our St. Pius Grads

Two of our recent substitute teachers at St. Pius have been **Bethany Reny** and **Katie (Van Walbeck) Wisniewski**. Isn't it fun to be on the other side of the desk, girls?

If you have noticed a new tree on the lawn outside of church, it is a Cherokee Princess dogwood, donated by Ron Schneider (father of **Emily**, class of 2002) in memory of **Jenny Murphy**, Emily's classmate who died recently in an auto accident.



Comings and Goings



Teri Giacci

Teri Giacci came to the St. Pius X community three years ago when both of her children had entered high school. She worked part time as a Teacher's Assistant and thoroughly enjoyed working with the students. This year she is back doing what she knows best, marketing and public relations.

Previously, Teri worked as V.P. Marketing & Community Relations for 10 years. In 1990 she opened a specialty food store in Ottawa Hills, helped get her husband's new company off the ground, and volunteered for numerous organizations. She served on the St. Ursula Board of Trustees, The St. Joseph School Advisory Council, University of Toledo Panhellenic Board, Phi Beta Phi Alumnae Advisory Council in Bowling Green and later at the University of Toledo. At her children's school she volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader, Soccer Coach, Room Mom and PTO Secretary to name a few. She is a six-year member of the Toledo Museum of Art Ambassadors having held

the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. Teri graduated from St. Ursula Academy, The Ohio State University and pursued a Master's in Business while pregnant with her first child. Now her children, Billy is a freshman at Ohio University and her daughter, Bailey is a senior at St. Ursula. She and her husband Bill just celebrated 23 years of marriage.



Kim Blocking

Kim Blocking is our newest faculty member who has settled in as the fourth grade teacher, replacing Wes Rethman, now teaching in Grade 1. Kim grew up in Walbridge, attended Lake High School, and is a graduate of Lourdes College. She has taught K-4th grade in three different schools: St. Mary's, Blessed Sacrament, and now, St. Pius X. She has also coached volleyball and basketball. She and her husband, Paul, celebrated their first anniversary on Oct. 29, 2006. Paul is a shipping supervisor for Marck and Associates. They have a three-year-old dog named Natasha.



Duane Hoschak

We also welcome **Duane Hoschak**, our new director of maintenance. Duane comes to us with 15 years of experience at St. Francis de Sales High School. His degree from UT is in Building Construction Technology and he loves working with his hands, so he was very pleased when Fr. Jim asked him to come to St. Pius. Duane and his wife, Louise, have been married almost 29 years. Louise has taught at Blessed Sacrament since the fall of 1978, and is currently teaching Religion to grades 6-8. Their three girls are: Sarah, a graduate of the U of Cincinnati with a PhD in pharmacy, Emily, a senior at UT majoring in Art Education, and Kate, a senior at Notre Dame Academy. Duane is a baseball fan who enjoys camping and other outdoor activities. However, his favorite time is time spent with his family.

Deacon Tim Etue, who served at St. Pius for ten years under Fr. Tom Landgraff, two years with Fr. Dennis Kelsch, and about two years under Fr. Jim Sanford, was offered a reassignment through the Bishop's office. He is at Immaculate Conception Parish under Fr. Paul Kwiatkowski,

who is in his fourteenth year as pastor there. Tim is still helping out at St. Pius when asked; he had a Baptism here not too long ago when Fr. Sanford was on vacation.

On November 17, about 30-35 present and past staff members gathered at the Maumee Elks Club to pay tribute to **Karen and Larry Petersen**. Karen retired in June after serving at St. Pius X School as a first grade teacher and then as our reading specialist. Larry, our former maintenance director, was planning on leaving at the end of the current school year, but serious illness forced him into early retirement. We thank them both for their years of dedication to our school, and wish them many happy years at their home in Florida.

School News

By Deb O'Shea

2007 Auction

The Friends of St. Pius will present the 2007 Benefit Auction on Saturday, March 31st. Mark your calendars now for our 10th Anniversary Auction. The theme this year is, "As Time Goes By". Since this is a milestone year for our auction we have asked for help from **Diane Saccone**, who was one of the founders of our auction. She has many wonderful ideas about relating the first auction to this one. Other members of this year's committee are Marty Petersen, **Gary Holewinski, Teri Giacci, Vicki Jagielski, Bob Kleinfelter, Dina Skelding, and Deb O'Shea**.

This year we will offer sponsorships from area Catholic High Schools and businesses. The Golden Sponsorship, with the most advertising coverage, is \$1000. The Silver Sponsorship is \$500, the Bronze Sponsorship is \$250, and the Special Mention Sponsorship is \$100. If anyone is interested in becoming a sponsor, please call the school office. We have already obtained a Golden Sponsorship with Carrabba's who will be providing our food for the evening. One of the live auction items already promised is a night's stay at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg. Some other items are antique jewelry, many restaurant gift cards, and a freezer. Our own Garry Saccone is blending some of his special home-brewed beer for this occasion.

Donor letters have gone out to all families and businesses that support St. Pius. We have also come up with a list of 50 more prospective businesses and hope to have quite a collection of items for the auction. As always, each class is creating a unique item to auction off that has the personal touch from their specific classroom. It's a wonderful experience to have lots of parents/grandparents from each class come and bid on items their children/grandchildren helped create. If you can't attend the auction or make a donation, please consider other ways of helping our school.

Supporting the School

Three ways you can offer assistance to St. Pius X School are:

1. Donations to our Tuition Assistance Scholarship. We are encouraging businesses and individuals/families to donate toward a tuition assistance scholarship with any amount of your choice. Recently we received a donation of \$1000 from a very generous supporter. Last year we totaled \$15,000 in tuition assistance. Some donors may wish to remain anonymous while others may allow us to publish their gift!

2. Saving Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup labels. Last year we were able to acquire playground equipment thanks to the Box Top donations. The soup label program is being reinstated after a few years of "no collections". We would appreciate the assistance from the parishioners in saving and collecting these items.

3. The Scrip Program returns a percentage of the gift card purchases to help with tuition. A large number of local businesses is involved. If you don't have a student to help, you could designate giving your percentage back to the school for the Tuition Assistance Scholarship fund. For more information on this program, contact Shamita Martin at 419-531-4657.

Upcoming Spiritual Events

by Fr. Jim Sanford

Stations of the Cross: This Lenten season the stations will be on every Friday evening at 7:00 pm. Pat Urbaniak is in the process of planning this sacred prayer and designing them for various groups in the parish community. It would be a great opportunity to stop by the church for prayer after a delicious Fish Fry.

Nationally known speaker, **Matthew Kelly**, will be here to address our parishioners on Thursday, March 29, at 7:00 pm. He will speak in our church. There is no fee. No tickets will be issued. Seating will be on a "first come, first served" basis. The cost for his appearance is being paid for by the late Laurene Krispin.

Holy Thursday: This year there will be no major dinner needing tickets and individual cost. We will be providing a

simple meal of bread and soup along with some time to reflect following the Holy Thursday services. More on this new Holy Thursday Meal will be coming in future bulletins.

Day of Reflection: The planned Salesian Retreat Day for Lent has been moved to the spring after Easter due to some scheduling conflicts. Please look for future announcements in the bulletin for this possible event.

St. Pius X Parish
3011 Carskaddon
Toledo, Ohio 43606
Address Service Requested

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Toledo, Ohio
PERMIT NO. 262**